

MIDSTATE AMATEUR RADIO CLUB

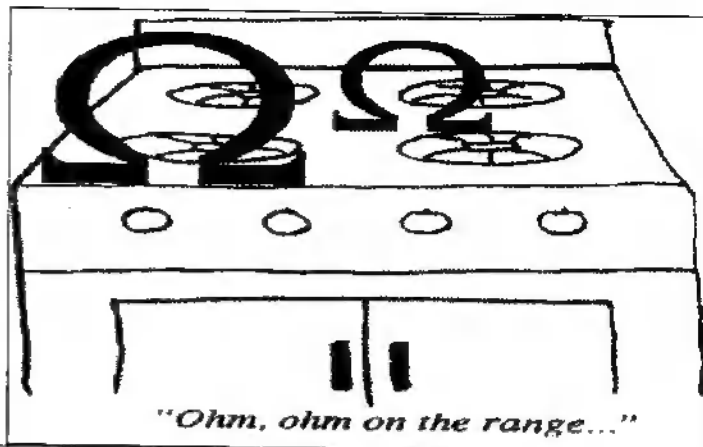
MARC



Ham Radio News From Central Indiana

Volume X No. 7

July 1994



Upgrades VE Testing June 18

Gabor Bathory	WD9DWM	Columbus	General
Lara Dollens		Pendleton	NC Tech
Thomas Millen		Bloomington	NC Tech
Joe Rogers *	KF9LQ	Franklin	Extra
Sarah Tolen	KA9WBG	Columbus	General
Alex Whitaker		Whiteland	Tech

* indicates member of MARC



SPARK-GAP HONORS

Congratulations to MARC newsletter editor Eugene McCarty, NV9K. The "Spark Gap" has been judged to be a 'Superior' newsletter by the Amateur Radio News Service. Each year ARNS asks amateur radio newsletter editors to submit their work for scrutiny.

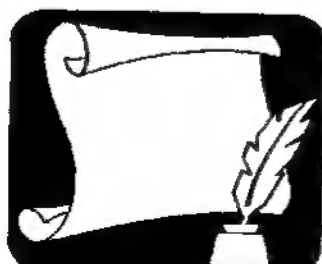
The Spark Gap was awarded the highest rating. There were 108 entries and less than 25 percent of those were judged to be superior. This was the first time Mac has entered the contest. He obviously was pleased with the results.

As a contributing writer I am proud to be associated with such a quality publication. Again, congratulations to Mac for a job well done! --NT9J.

RETRACTION: ARRL DUES HIKE

An article in the June issue of the Spark-Gap that stated there would be a hike in ARRL dues was in error! The information was obtained from what appeared to be an official ARRL HQ bulletin on a packet BBS. It seems that other newsletters also printed this information from a source on the Prodigy service. The "WIRELESS" of Garden City, Mi. ran the same info in their May edition.

The ARRL wants the news to get out that this was NOT an official bulletin from them and THERE WILL BE NO HIKE IN ARRL DUES! We regret printing this mis-information! NV9K Ed.



BENS WEATHER TIPS

By Ben Woods Channel 8 TV

Those lazy, hazy, crazy days of summer are here. We've already had a number of days with temperatures above 90 degrees along with high humidities. In a typical summer, Indianapolis has about 20 days of 90+ high temperatures.

Along with the heat, some heavy rainfall was reported. The monthly total for June in Indianapolis was 7.00 inches (well above the average of 3.99"). Much of that fell in the second half of the month and for many in central Indiana it was quite welcome because some areas had been a bit dry.

The national weather headlines have been divided between the dry conditions in the west and the rain soaked southeast. High winds, hot temperatures, and very little rainfall is creating a critical wildfire situation in some western states (especially Colorado). Little improvement is expected out west.

The first tropical storm of the season, Alberto, has caused extensive flooding in Georgia. Although Alberto never reached hurricane strength, the flooding he caused (due to weak steering winds that keep the remnants nearly stationary) rivaled that of the most powerful hurricane. In some spots of central Georgia

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When a tropical storm or hurricane is brewing, the National Hurricane Center activates a "weather-net". The latest coordinates and information from hurricane hunter flights is relayed on the net. Evacuation information is also available. Hams can monitor the Hurricane Net on 14.275 mhz or 14.325 mhz.

The next named storm in the Atlantic is Berry. The outlook for July in Indiana calls for above normal temperatures and near normal precipitation.

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Mid-State Amateur Radio Club

Post Office Box 836 Franklin, In. 46131

Club Repeater: 146.835

The Mid-State ARC meets every 3rd saturday
in the Johnson County Law Enforcement Bldg. on
Hospital Road. All are welcome to attend.

President: Roy Barnes N9PFZ

RACES: Joe Vergara KA9ZPA

V. President: Randy Shake KC9LC

ARES: Vernon Gill N9QBO

Secretary: Marilyn Parion N9TUK

Activities: Jack Parker NT9J

Treasurer: Mac McCarty NV9K

Rptr. Trustee: Dave Julian WB9YIG

Editor: Mac McCarty NV9K

Weather: Ben Woods Channel 8

An open letter from Joe

Repeater owners spend a lot of time and money to establish a quality machine. Many users of these privately financed repeaters are being inconsiderate toward other users.

Such things as playing with touch tones, shutting off the phone patch in the middle of a conversation, and creating interference on the repeater are creating a problem that must be corrected.

We repeater owners are being forced to limit usage to private access. It's a shame to let one bad apple ruin it for everyone else. What if that phone patch you inadvertently turned off could have saved the life of someone you love? What if some good ham was calling the police to see about the break-in at your house? BANG! One touch tone away and he's cut off!

Remember, repeaters are for emergency use, not to be overtaken by a bunch of ragchewers. If someone is talking let them finish, then put in your call. If they want to talk they'll call you back. In emergencies call out break/break, but in all other situations just use your call sign.

Amateurs have worked hard to get their license. We owe each other a little respect. If you are part of the present problem on a repeater don't think you are getting by! When you least expect it a bunch of frustrated hams may come knocking at your door! Save your-

self the embarrassment. Please think before you start pushing the tones on your radio. -KA9ZPA

Keep your ht handy!

On June 21, 1993, when a fire broke out at the Union Hospital in Moose Jaw, Saskatchewan, Rob, VE5ROB, an employee of the hospital, crawled on his stomach to better locate the source of the fire. Then, using his handheld on the autopatch, he called the fire department.

He reported the exact location of the fire and gave information on which doors the fire department could use for access.

Rob was commended for remaining calm under great pressure and showing presence of mind using Amateur Radio to alleviate what could have escalated quickly into a major emergency.

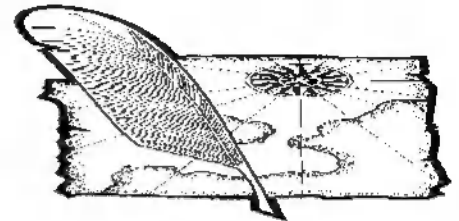
His prompt action and specific directions eliminated the need of evacuation when the fire was brought under quick control by the fire department.

from the Arrowhead ARC Discharge, Duluth, MN.

*** While a Novice, I worked a ham in Arkansas. In the QSO, I mentioned that Asia apples, grown in Washington state were a cross between a pear and an apple. The ham in Arkansas came back in CW "that ain't nothing, here we cross owls with goats and raise Hootenannies!"

Marian Eddy, KM7B in July Worldradio.

LETTER TO THE EDITOR



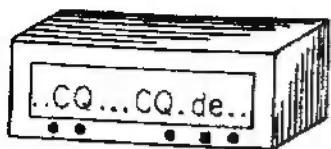
On the 29th of June, Johnson County activated a chemical spill exercise at Franklin, In. This event was published in the MARC newsletter and announced on the Sunday Net. Of all the numerous RACES members, only three (3) were present. All the RACES members were invited to participate.

I only hope this is not an indication of the participation in an actual emergency event. This leads me to determine that the Johnson County RACES program is not very effective or really needed. The Citizen Band Alert members do more for their community than the Amateur Radio group, but the Amateur Radio group is quick to criticize the CB group.

So I believe it is time to review the RACES program and make a determination to either terminate or change the program to be an actual realistic Amateur Radio function for the community's benefit, not the the play-thing of the Amateur Radio group.

The choice is ours, either terminate, leave as is, or do the job as RACES was formed to do. We should either support the RACES function or resign!

Asst RACES Officer Robert (Bob) De Spain WBSVZT.



Field Day 1994

Who has a screw driver? Did anybody pick up the generator? Are we on TV or is Jack just over there talking to that telephone pole? Those were some of the comments heard throughout the morning Saturday June 25th as members of the Mid-state ARC began setting up for Field Day '94.

We had a good set up crew to help disassemble screen windows, string coax and put a 26-ton crane together. We even had hams coming from Mississippi to help. Nick, K5BQJ heard the local radio chatter and wound up spending his weekend with MARC members. We had over 40 hams and non-hams visit our Camp Atterbury radio site over the weekend.

Each year over 30 thousand amateur radio operators across the country participate in the 24-hour simulated emergency field exercise. "What we try to do is try to see how many contacts we can make throughout the country in 24 hours", says Bob LeGrange, N9SIU. "This gives us practice setting up quick and dirty communications with emergency power and antennas which we can string up in an hour or two", says Dave Wendt, KA9OOH.

We hit the jackpot when Jack, NT9J, appeared "live" on the Wish TV Noon newscast with Ray Rice. Using video from last year's field

day, Jack talked about the 1994 operation and showed club members "live" getting ready to hoist the tri-band beam 140 feet into the air on the end of the 26-ton crane. The crane again was provided by Ed's Crane Service in Franklin. Ray Rice did a follow up report on our field day that appeared on the six o'clock version of Wish TV News.

JR Osborne was field day coordinator for the second year in a row. He spent most of the spring pulling all of the resources together to provide a successful field day. Of course, no FD operation could survive without food. Pat Pyle, W9PSD, headed up the food supply. Everyone pitched in to provide a delicious selection of chili, sloppy joe's, salads and lunch meat. We had plenty of ham for the hams this year. Mac, NV9K, arranged for the club to supply sliced ham platters and soft drinks. Dave, KA9OOH, donated a large smoked ham to fill the void.

Overnight operators were rewarded with Pat's famous breakfast of biscuits and gravy. They also were treated to a violent thunderstorm about 3 AM. According to Bob, WB5VZT, they had to disconnect everything and just wait out the storm. Despite the two hour pause for lightening, we still scored a lot of contacts.

Special thanks goes to Joe, KA9ZPA, for spending the entire weekend operating the crane. Mark your calendar for the last weekend of June next year and we'll see you at Field Day 1995! —NT9J.

EDITORIAL

During the summer months when club activities start piling up we start hearing the same old complaints that a few are doing all the work. Sound familiar?

Committees complain they don't have enough volunteers for their activity. Do they have a legitimate gripe? Of course they do, but maybe we should consider the general make-up of ALL volunteer organizations.

For starters, it IS a volunteer organization. People join to be part of the group. Few of them even consider that they might have an obligation to take an active part. Some join for what the group can do for them, and feel no obligation to share the responsibilities of club activities.

We have to consider human nature. Other clubs you belong to probably have no more than 10 percent of their members doing the job! Why should we think our club is different?

Should our dependable workers give up in disgust and say, "If they are not interested why should I do it all?" This is not a solution, it's a cop-out!

Maybe we should ask selected individuals to help. They might work IF THEY WERE ASKED PERSONALLY! Some members think, "Let the big shots do it, they don't need me!"

We should approach them on a "one-on-one" basis. Why not try to make *every* club member "one of the big shots?" —NV9K

FIELD DAY 1994



Dennis Parton, KB9HPQ prepares to call out "CW Field Day."



Pat Pyle, W9PSD and Ed McCarty, N9KHM made many contacts on CW!



Brad Stone, NB9M and Dave Wendt, KA9OOH make some contacts at the Novice station while Brad's son observes the action.



And of course there's always a group around the food table.

Another Field Day.....

Field day this year turned out to be a fun day. J.R. Osborne, KB9HSE, was in charge of the activity with Pat, W9PSD, in charge of the food. Several members of the club showed up early on Saturday to set up the generator and antennas. When the transceivers were

set up we began operations as 2A Indiana under the call sign AA9KT. The novice station used the call KB9AWK. The de-duped total contacts was 718 with 141 of them as CW contacts. JR wants to thank all the club members who participated in the event in any way. All who took part had fun and that's what field day is all about!

twenty miles away magnetized their needles.

Dr. Martin Uman reports measuring an electromagnetic field strength of 100,000 micro-Volts per meter from strokes six miles away—more than a 50 kW AM station develops at the same distance.

Nearby lightning strikes produce loud pops in a receiver, but if the storm is close enough for you to hear the pops, you should get off the air and ground your antennas—immediately!

"Grinders" are the real trouble-makers. Sounding "like a brick wall tumbling down", they can obscure all but the strongest signals. Grinders originate in storms 50 miles away (sometimes more).

John Reinartz, W1XAM, told of hearing QRN from the Caribbean while at the North Pole with the Admiral Byrd expedition.

Code: universal language

By Clark Evans WA9DLL

In February of 1991 an American woman and two Japanese boys came into our Amateur Radio station at the Museum of Science and Industry in Tampa, Florida.

The woman, the boys' tour guide, told Lee Pallet, KB4FBX, and me, "You won't be able to talk to these boys. They speak no English."

But then she said the boy in the corner was interested in the station, because he, too, was a ham radio operator.

Hearing that, Lee whistled, "CQ CQ" and the boy instantly whistled an answer in Morse. After that, Lee translated for the tour guide. But at first, she was incredulous, saying, "You can't be communicating with him!" Lee answered, "Oh, we certainly are," and told her their names, where they were from, and more.

We hams can communicate regardless of native language, using Morse code, with its standard abbreviations—our universal code language!

Did flies give us July 4th?

By David Barton AF6S

According to Tom Peters in the March 1994 San Jose Mercury News, some historic committees have produced excellent work. But the article also suggests the incentives have to be right.

As Peters relates it, the meetings leading to the signing of the Declaration of Independence took place next door to a livery stable.

Thomas Jefferson was quoted as saying the men present were so distracted by swarms of fierce flies that they glossed over many issues that might have otherwise led to interminable discussions, and rushed to sign the document so they could leave.

So there you have it; but for the common horsefly, Americans might still be singing God Save the Queen!

Tid bits.....

Richard Shelton N6RS is home and recovering from a by-pass operation. It's nice to hear him back on the airwaves.

Dan Cammack W9MLN was in our area over the July 4th weekend. He was heard several times on the 835 with news from his New Kentucky Home.

Eleven area hams showed up to furnish communications for the 10K run in Greenwood July 2nd. Thanks to NT9J, WB9YIG, KA9BSD, W9PSD, KA9OOH, WB9AYB, KB9HSE, KF9LQ, N9QBO, KC9LC and NV9K.

Brad Stone NB9M (Charter member of MARC) showed up on Field Day to help set up antennas and begin operations.

Expiration of the first 10 year Amateur licenses issued in 1984 continue to take their toll. In March the FCC deleted 3744 station licenses while adding only 3010.

Club nets have until September 6, 1994 to register in the 1995-96 ARRL Net Directory. This new edition will not carry over information from previous directories. Clubs must use a registration card (Form FSD-85, available from HQ).

According to Brian WW9A, the Amateur Radio forum that was scheduled for July 16th will not take place until sometime in the fall. The building at IUPUI is not open on a full-day basis during the summer break. Watch for exact date and time in the Spark-Gap.



10 K Run

It was a hot action packed morning Saturday July 2nd when 400 runners crossed the start line and began the first annual Firecracker 10K run in Greenwood.

The Greater Greenwood Kiwanis sponsored the run-walk event. Several members of the Mid-state Amateur Radio Club were on hand to provide communications around the course.

Ham operators were stationed at critical positions around the course to help volunteers guide the runners and walkers to their next turn. The six mile running course snaked through the streets of northern Greenwood, south around Craig Park and ended up across from the Greenwood Park Mall.

According to Jack, NT9J, he received the call for help a couple of days before the event. A call for assistance was immediately broadcast on the 146.835 repeater for any ham radio volunteers who might be available to work the event. Eleven operators answered the challenge.

Everyone met at Madison Ave and North Forest Drive at 7 am to get their assignments. Jack worked as liaison with event organizers while Dave, WB9YIG, handled the Net Control duties.

Bob, WB9AYB, worked mobile

on his Honda Spree. His original mission was to work the Craig Park location. But, event organizers failed to provide a motorized escort for the wheelchair runner so Bob was pressed into service as lead vehicle for the race.

The course was not properly marked. So, Dave had to read the map and via 2-meter radio, guided Bob and his wheelchair buddy through the six mile course. Thanks to Dave, both Bob and his two wheeled-runner found their way and finished in good time.

We would like to thank everyone who gave up their Saturday morning to help with the 10K Firecracker Run. On hand were Dave, KA9OOH; Randy, KC9LC; Jerome, KA9BSD; Pat, W9PSD; Mac, NV9K; Joe, KF9LQ; Vernon, N9QBO; and JR, KB9HSE.

Greenwood Kiwanis officials were very complementary about our communication skills. And, without a doubt, we all finished "first" with organizers of this marathon. -NT9J

Do you recognize this club member?



He has been active in the club for several years.

Last month's mystery club member was WB9AYB

Encouragement

by Ken Rousch, N7SQU

Whether we like to acknowledge it or not, most of us need a bit of encouragement from time to time.

We need positive reinforcement because we continually find ourselves surrounded by people who are quick to tell us what we are doing wrong, while rarely mentioning what we are doing right.

The last thing a negative person would do is encourage us to go beyond what we expect of ourselves; yet, most of us are capable of doing just that-with the right influences.

Years ago I met an old farmer who understood that. He cited his mule as a prime example. When I asked him to explain he said, "Come out to the field and I'll show you." I did, and I watched him put blinders on the mule and hitch him to a two-horse plow.

Then, when he stood behind the plow and yelled, "Get up Will, get up John, get up Kate, get up Bill," the mule pulled that big plow.

"How many names does that mule have?" I asked. "Just one," the farmer answered, "Pete. But when I call out the other names, he knows he has plenty of help. So he does the work of two."

from "Kachina QSO", Judy Roush, AA7UC, Editor

"What's your favorite Rock Group?"

"Mount Rushmore!"

August 7K Run

What could be more fun than a day of fast feet, fried fish and ham radio? Mark your calendars for Saturday August 13th. The Mid-state ARC has been asked to provide communicators for the Flat Rock Fall Festival 7K Run. That's right. A fall festival in August.

According to Tim Sanford, Flat Rock resident and ham licensee "in waiting", the Volunteer Fire Department requested the ham radio assistance in providing communications around the course. The race should take about an hour. Tim will have more details about the event at the July 16th Mid-state ARC meeting.

The club has also been invited to have an informational booth at the festival. This would be an opportunity for our club to show others the different aspects of ham radio. It has been suggested that we have our usual video display with the Field Day tapes playing, plus a 2 meter-440 base station set up and an HF rig. Maybe even packet.

At the July meeting club activity chairman, Jack Parker, NT9J, will be looking for volunteers to help with the race and information booth.

And with any luck, the FCC will mail Tim Sanford his ham license in time to actually talk on his radio at the 7K run. We can only hope!

Reminder: Club meeting this saturday. Try to attend!

Phone survey

The FCC has released the results of a telephone interference survey and concluded that since some telephones are "bulletproof," all of them could be.

Thirty-five FCC field offices each picked three random cases of telephone interference on record and then visited the scene. The transmitting stations included 47 citizens band, 27 amateur, 23 AM broadcast, 10 FM broadcast, and one international broadcast station (none were specifically identified).

At the location experiencing interference, the FCC's Field Operations Bureau personnel first tested the telephones on site, then tested their own "bulletproof" telephones, as well as several commercially available filters.

Altogether, 241 different telephones were tested. Among the FCC's conclusions was that transmitter power did not seem to be a significant factor; they said that 10 watts or less caused telephone interference in one-third of the cases.

The FCC also said that filters worked only one-third of the time. "Manufacturers can design telephones to be interference free," the Commission said, citing its bulletproof telephones, which were immune from interference "virtually all of the time."

The FCC said that it hopes the survey will encourage affected parties "to productively address and resolve this problem." The FCC

said it receives 25,000 complaints per year from people who are "unable to use their telephones" because nearby radio stations interfere with them. "Whenever the radio stations are on the air, the telephones pick up their transmissions, which then override any ongoing telephone conversation," the FCC said.

The survey's goals were to pinpoint the following: What telephones are affected, what type transmitting stations are involved (including power levels), whether commonly available filters are effective in eliminating interference, and whether specially designed telephones are effective in eliminating interference.

The FCC said the transmitting stations most likely to cause telephone interference are citizens band, amateur, and broadcast stations. Citizens band stations accounted for half the interferences while amateur and broadcast stations caused the rest.

"Manufacturers can design telephones to be interference free," the FCC said. "Bulletproof telephones were immune from interference."

Club Elections

Club elections are held annually in September. In July a nominating committee is appointed by the president. In August the committee presents its slate to the membership. Nominations from the floor can be made only at this time. In September the election is held and new officers begin their term.



*** The trouble with taking a "middle of the road" position is that you can get run over from either direction.

*** A girdle is a device to keep an unfortunate condition from spreading.

*** He graduated from an agricultural college. He was chosen as the one most likely to sack seed.

*** Things are not going too well on the farm. There's not much money in milk and eggs, so many a farmer is sitting around, trying to figure out something else the cows and chickens can do.

*** Try mating cows with mules to get milk with a kick in it.

*** "Whats the use of reindeer?" "It makes the flowers grow."

*** Complaining at the airlines a woman said, "Young man, I could stick a feather in my ear and get there faster." The clerk smiled and said, "Madame the runways are clear!"

*** Nowadays, there are three basic food groups: canned, frozen, and takeout.

*** Women will never play football. Imagine eleven women in public wearing the same outfit.

*** A friend is a guy who's got the same enemies you do.

*** The trouble with the future is that it keeps getting closer and closer.

*** Civilization is held together by three things: the staple, the paper clip, and the zipper.

*** A woman in Denver stabbed her husband 280 times. She didn't know how to turn off the electric knife.

*** Gall is when you borrow your pal's new car and call him a half hour later, saying, "Your air bag works."

*** A man goes into a gift shop and sees a strange necklace. "What's this made of?" he asked the clerk.

"Alligator teeth."

"But it's so much more expensive than a pearl necklace."

"Well," the clerk says, "anyone can open an oyster."

*** "John, I've changed my mind." "Great! Does it work better now?"

*** He bought a book on how to become the boss of the family. But his wife won't let him read it.

*** Will someone please explain why Noah didn't swat those two flies when he had the chance?

*** Health insurance is just like wearing one of the hospital gowns. You only think you're covered!

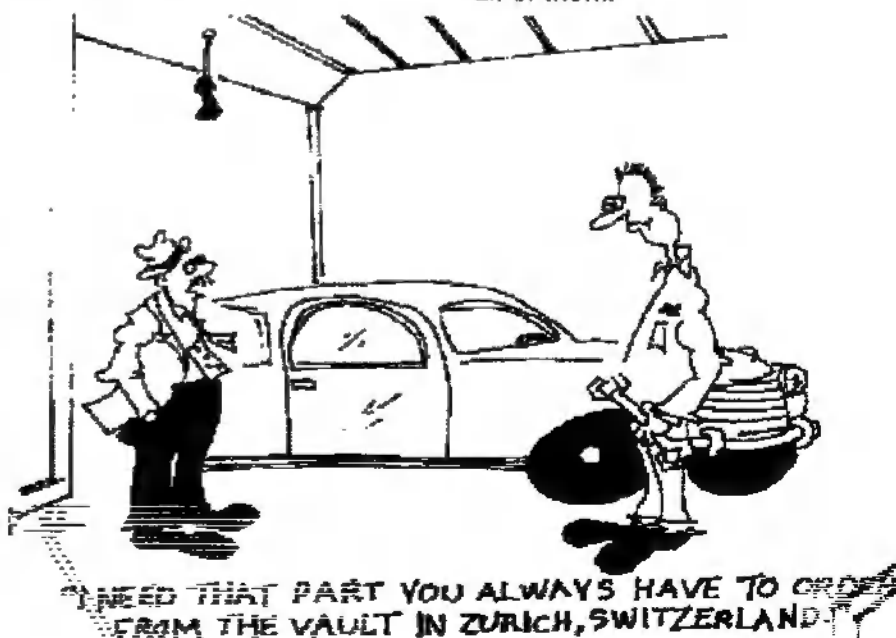
*** How come the man who wasn't good enough to marry your daughter is now the father of the smartest kids in the world?

*** The unluckiest man in the world was the lightning-rod salesman who got caught in a big storm with ten samples in his hands.

*** If it weren't for marriage, men would go through life thinking they had no faults at all.

*** A henpecked husband arrived late with his nagging wife. "What are they playing?" she asked. "The Fifth Symphony," he said. "You dummy!" she said. "We've already missed four of them!"

*** A friend invites a neighbor to his house for a drink. When he gets him there, he makes the unlucky soul sit down and watch his slides of Hong Kong. An hour later the neighbor says, "How many people live in Hong Kong?" "About ten million." "And I'll bet you're going to show me all of them!"



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